

LOUDOUN COUNTY EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL, INC.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Monday, April 21, 2003

The March meeting of the ALS Committee was held on April 21, 2003, with the following members in attendance:

Co. 3	A. Love	Co. 14	J. Merritt
Co. 4	Excused	Co. 15	F. Gansel
Co. 6	J. Downs	Co. 17	N. Hall
Co. 8	N. Croce	LCFR	L Hale, J. Salazar
Co. 9	K. Fraley	Chair	L. Kelly
Co. 10	Absent	LHC	Absent
Co. 12	G. Garner	OMD	Donald A. Sabella, MD
Co. 13	I. Askari		

Guest: Wally Rinaldi, Rescue Chief 16

Public Comments

Wally Rinaldi was present at the invitation of the Chair to discuss the current status of ALS in Neersville. The discussion was to center on the recent decision of Company 16 to downgrade the ALS Non-Transport ALS Response vehicle owned by Company 16 and licensed the ALS Agency license of Company 12 to a First Responder vehicle.

Chairman Kelly provided some historical background on how the arrangement was established between Neersville and Lovettsville in an effort to continue to provide a more rapid ALS intervention in the Neersville area.

Chairman Kelly outlined a meeting that was conducted in Neersville that established this agreement/arrangement. Representatives of Company 16, Company 12, the LCFR Commission, the LC EMS Council, ALS Committee and LCFR staff were present at the meeting. At that meeting it was agreed upon pending confirmation of the memberships of both companies, that Company 16 would provide the vehicle to be used in the provision of ALS in Neersville, that then Rescue Chief 16, Georgia Garner, an EMT/Enhanced Provider, would maintain dual memberships in Company 16 and Company 12 and that the vehicle would be licensed under the ALS Agency license of Company 12. It was agreed at that meeting that the details would be worked out between the two companies concerning insurance and that Ken Pullen with the OEMS would be contacted to determine how a vehicle owned by one company could operate under the ALS Agency license of the other.

All of the items outlined above were completed and initial ALS response has been provided in Neersville on many of the ALS calls by Georgia Garner.

Rescue Chief Rinaldi confirmed that Company 16 has made the decision to recall the Company 16 ALS Response vehicle effective 1 May 2003, and to license it as a First Responder Non-Transport vehicle.

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Public Comments (Continued)

Based on the decision of Company 16, Georgia Garner has advised them of her decision to resign from Company 16 effective on 1 May 2003. Rinaldi said that Company 16 is a BLS Agency and is not responsible for providing ALS within the Neersville Community.

Rinaldi also advised that since 1 January 2003, Company 16 had been dispatched on approximately 20 calls, to which Garner had responded to approximately 50% of the incidents. He stated that the membership was concerned that on the calls, Garner at times goes past the station when responding to a call and they feel that she should stop, unload her ALS equipment into the Ambulance and then respond to the scene of the incident. Garner did not feel that this was reasonable because it would delay ALS interventions to the patient. She also felt that some equipment was not working correctly on the vehicle. Rinaldi denied this, however stated that Company 16 is unwilling to place a large amount of money into repairs when it will be placed out of service as a transport unit in the near future. In order to respond as a Rescue Unit, Garner would have to have herself and a minimum of an EMT/B to respond. Since there are very few EMT/B's in Company 16 the likelihood of having an EMT present at the station was very remote. Rinaldi confirmed that in addition to Georgia Garner, there are only two other members who are EMT/B's in Company 16, himself and another member who they have not seen in the past seven months. Rinaldi stated that he had completed the County AED/Combitube recertification requirements, however staff confirmed that they have not received a roster with his name on it as of this date.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the above matters.

Rinaldi stated that he objected to the amount of e-mails that circulated concerning this issue condemning Company 16 for taking this action. Kelly stated that he would have dealt through the EMS Council delegate had one been appointed by Company 16 in January 2003. Rinaldi stated that he was not aware of the requirement for the Company to appoint a delegate since the Fire Council allows anyone who shows up from the Company to vote at their meetings. Kelly felt that without the appointment of a known delegate that it would be difficult to determine if the individual was in fact authorized to represent the views of their Company. Kelly stated that since January 2003, he had also sent E-mail to Fire Chief 16 reminding them that an appointment had still not been made. Rinaldi stated that he thought that Georgia Garner was representing their interests at the meetings. Kelly also clarified that the E-mail correspondence was copied to Members of the Commission, Members of the EMS Council Executive Committee, Georgia Garner, Chairman, Rescue Chief's Committee, Chief Griffin, Deputy Chief Brown and Battalion Chief Hale. He felt that this distribution was necessary based on the immediate nature of the problem and the interruption of an existing service.

Neil Hall representing Company 17 – Hamilton Volunteer Rescue Squad strongly objected to the manner in which the Chair has handled this situation with Company 16 and spoke of their strong support of Company 16 positions. Hall stated that there is a double standard in the manner in which this was handled.

Public Comments (Continued)

Dr. Sabella, Jack Merritt and Nick Croce all spoke of the need to work out any differences and the importance of providing ALS support to the community of Neersville.

Kelly advised that Company 12, recognizing the need for providing ALS service in the presence of an ALS Provider is in the process of modifying the vehicle previously used by Karen Deli as a Regional Responder to be licensed and used by Georgia in the Neersville area.

Kelly thanked Rinaldi for coming to the meeting this evening.

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the March 17, 2003, be approved as recorded. They're being no further discussion on the motion a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: Approve March 17, 2003 minutes as recorded.

Vote: Approved

Loudoun Hospital Center Report

Beth McKinnon is not present for the meeting this evening however there are several issues that still need to be addressed.

1. Medical Control is now available from both Cornwall Street and Landsdowne. While there were some initial startup difficulties, all seems to be working well at this point. Incidents west of River Creek Parkway will utilize Cornwall Street Medical Control while those incidents east of River Creek Parkway will utilize the Landsdowne Campus Medical Control. We will be monitoring the events using two Medical Control sites over the next several months. If a unit is rerouted from one facility to another, there will be no need to contact the receiving facility. The contacted Medical Control Physician will relay information to the receiving facility and maintain Medical Control for the duration of the incident. Any problems should be reported to Battalion Chief Linda Hale or Leo Kelly.

2. There continues to be a problem with the replacement of drugs from the Regional Narcotics Pouch used on calls at the Cornwall Campus. It appears that the process is lengthened by the procedure of the nurse checking each of the unused drugs and returning them into the hospital stock before issuing a new pouch. It was our initial understanding that only the used drugs would be replaced and that the unused drugs from the pouch would be placed into the new pouch and sealed. The expiration date on the pouch would be for the date of the earliest expiring drug.

Loudoun Hospital Center Report (Continued)

3. Kit Fraley, Rescue Chief 9, brought to the attention of the Chair, her inability to find Lidocaine with a longer expiration date than the ones she was attempting to exchange 5/01/03. In her attempts to exchange the expiring drugs, she found that the Lidocaine in the ER Pyxis, ER and pharmacy all had the same expiration dates. The pharmacist on duty told Kit that they would prefer that the rescue personnel not come to the pharmacy to replace drugs, even in large quantities.

The Chair communicated via e-mail with JoAnn Neuffer, Chief Pharmacist at Loudoun Hospital Center. She advised him that there was a shortage however she would work to secure Lidocaine with longer expiration dates for exchange. She also confirmed that she would prefer that the ALS personnel exchange all drugs from the Rescue Pyxis in the Emergency Department at Landsdowne. She was advised that this was contrary to the ALS Policy for the replacement of drugs that she had previously agreed to at a meeting. Dr. Neuffer stated that if there is an inadequate supply of drugs for replacement that a call should be made to the pharmacy to restock the Pyxis. In a similar manner, if the Pyxis is being depleted by a large replacement of drugs, then the pharmacy should be advised so that they may restock it.

We will attempt to schedule a face-to-face meeting with Dr. Neuffer to discuss these issues in the near future.

4. Jack Merritt expressed concern that there appears to be reluctance on the part of the Medical Control Physician's to give orders for Morphine for the management of pain. Dr. Sabella and Leo Kelly participated in the discussion of this topic. There is always a fear that the patient's symptoms may be masked by the use of Morphine before a definitive evaluation is made. The ability of the patient to consent to procedures or surgery is also impeded by the administration of Morphine.

5. An issue previously discussed at the ALS Committee meeting of the Medical Control Physician at the Cornwall Street campus not signing off on a fly out authorized by the Landsdowne Campus has been resolved by Dr. Puccio.

Medical Director's Report

Dr. Sabella had no other topics other than those discussed above.

Working Groups

ALS Protocols

CD-ROM's are still planned however we will be altering the helicopter policy in the Protocols to include the additional wording of the Helicopter transport policy adopted by the Fire-Rescue Commission. In addition, it now appears that it will be necessary to amend the drug replacement policy. Once these items are altered and provided no additional items come to our attention we will move forward with the production of the CD ROMS.

Courses

Captain Jose Salazar reported on the ongoing ALS Training programs:

1. There are currently 8 students in the EMT/E to EMT/I evening course and 6 students in the daytime EMT/B to EMT/I program. All students in both programs appear to be doing well at this point.
2. An ALS Preceptor Class has been scheduled for May 27, 2003, with the pre-test for the class scheduled for May 21, 2003.
3. An AED/Combitube Instructor Class has been scheduled for May 22, 2003, with the pre-test for the class scheduled for May 20, 2003.
4. The final approval of all candidates for each class will rest with the ALS Committee and Dr. Sabella following the results of the pre-test.
5. An ACLS Class will be held on June 7, 8, 2003, for the students in the EMT/B to EMT/I class and the EMT/Enhanced to EMT/I class. On June 8, 2003, an ACLS Renewal Class will also be conducted with limited slots open to the entire system.
6. An ALS Challenge Testing session will be held on June 22, 2003. Captain Salazar is looking for assistance from the ALS Committee and other ALS Providers in the County.
7. Dr. Troficonte of Loudoun ER is a PALS Instructor with the AHA and is exploring the possibility of conducting PALS Classes as a joint venture between Loudoun Hospital Center and the Fire-Rescue Training Center. Further details will follow.
8. Captain Salazar reported that we would continue to offer PEEP courses at the Training Center. He reported that there is no a mechanism to renewal PEEP certifications on-line. Once the on-line requirements were met, the student would then come into the Training Center for final testing.

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9. Captain Salazar reported that a PEEP Class is scheduled on May 28, 29, 2003 from 0800 hours to 1600 hours each day. Kelly expressed a concern that this same training

opportunity was not being made available for the evening class as well as the daytime students. Dr. Sabella suggested polling the evening class to see if they are available for this daytime class however Kelly pointed out that this is normally not possible for the volunteer students to attend daytime offerings during the week. Salazar said that he understood the concerns and will explore a similar training opportunity for a PEEP class for the evening students.

ALS Technician Status

Fred Gansel reported on the Preceptorship status of Loudoun County Providers.

1. There are currently 12 ALS Providers precepting in Loudoun County.
2. Gansel recommended the release of three precepting ALS Providers:

Michael Morisi, EMT/E – Company 6
Tracey Lane, EMT/E – Company 6
Dan Smith, EMT/I – LCFR

A motion was made and seconded that Michael Morisi and Tracey Lane be recommended to the Medical Director for release from preceptorship. They're being no further discussion on the motion a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: Recommend to the Medical Director the release of Michael Morisi, EMT/E and Tracey Lane, EMT/E from preceptorship.

Vote: Approved (Dr. Sabella concurred with motion for release)

A motion was made by Jack Merritt and seconded by Allie Love that Dan Smith, EMT/I be recommended for release following his successful completion of a Mega Code scenario since he is in a period of extension. In addition, the Mega Code scenario must be made available within 15 days of the motion or he will be automatically recommended for release. Following a discussion of the motion a vote was taken and the motion was approved
5 yes 3 no 2 abstentions.

Motion: Recommend to the Medical Director the released of Dan Smith, EMT/I following the completion of a Mega Code scenario in accordance with the ALS Policies and Procedures due to the extension of preceptorship beyond 6 months. Mega Code scenario must be available to the student within 15 days of the motion or he will be automatically recommended for release.

Vote: Approved (Dr. Sabella concurred with the motion for release)

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Old Business

1. There has been a cost overrun from the original price that was quoted by Spencer's Lock and Key. The reason for the overrun was due to an underestimate of the number of locks needed by the system, special locks for the roll up cabinets in several vehicles. In addition, the cost of the keys was not included in the original estimate.
2. Due to the nature of the locks, both keys are self-retaining keys. Battalion Chief Hale has distributed key rings to each ALS Providers that allows for the separation of the keys.
3. Two sets of keys were found problematic and were replaced. This is not a bad percentage based on the number of keys produced. E-mail was sent out requesting that all ALS Providers check their keys.
4. Kelly reported that he has had a communication with Robert Vaughn concerning the recertification of his EMT/P status. The ALS Committee previously approved his attendance at an alternate ALS Program based on his inability to attend all classes on weekends due to his status as an ordained minister and his commitment to church duties on Sundays. Concern was raised when he did not appear for testing. Vaughn stated that he completed his requirements a year in advance of his expiration to avoid any problems when the time came for his renewal.
5. Linda Hale reported that 4 ALS Providers have still not picked up their ALS Keys at this point. All are members of Company 15 and are:

Andrea Walter
Sherilee Long
Vicky Childs
Michele Frazelle

Fred Gansel will follow-up on the above.

New Business

1. Kelly provided a demonstration of a self-retracting needle on a syringe and a retracting IV catheter and extension tubing. Both are supplied by B&D and will be presented to the hospital at the ER/EMS Committee meeting.

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2. Also presented to the ALS Committee was the suggestion of replacing the Bulb Syringe used for the EDD to be replaced by an Ambu Tube Check Syringe. The cost of both is the same, however the syringe appears to allow for a greater vacuum to be produced.

A motion was made by James Downs and seconded by Jack Merritt that a recommendation be made to convert to the Ambu Tube Check Syringe. Initially they would be supplied for all ET Kits and replace the bulb syringe in the Combitube sets until the supply of bulb syringes are depleted at the hospital. They're being no further discussion on the motion a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion: Approve the use of Ambu Tube Check Syringe in place of the bulb syringe in its use as an EDD.

Vote: Approved

3. FAST One Trainers will be purchased by the EMS Council for all EMS Battalions and will be placed at ALS Transport Agencies.
4. The Virginia OEMS has revised their rules concerning the oversight of EMT/Enhanced students. The State will now permit EMT/C providers to provide oversight of EMT/E students during their class rotations. The rules still prohibit EMT/C's from providing oversight for EMT/I students during their field rotations. Once the student is certified and enters into preceptorship the list of approved Preceptors in Loudoun County will apply.
5. State OEMS had withdrawn four regulations for their New Rules and Regulations. They have done this with the understanding that they will be re-working the regulations for future inclusion in the Rules and Regulations. E-mail was sent out to all ALS Committee members outlining the withdrawn regulations. System members can access the State OEMS website to view the changes at <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/oems/>.
6. The Northern Virginia EMS Council continues with their efforts to establish Regional Protocols. Matt Myers has been hired on part-time to address this project.
7. There is not longer a need to register AEDs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition, there is no longer a requirement to complete a CPR course in order be covered by the Good Samaritan Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

There being no further business to come before the ALS Committee a motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. They're being no further discussion of the motion a vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 2230 hours.

Motion: Adjournment

Vote: Approved

The next meeting of the ALS Committee is scheduled for the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Training Center on May 20, 2003, at 1930 hours.

Submitted on behalf of the ALS Committee:

**Leo C. Kelly, PA
Co-Chairman
Loudoun County ALS Committee**

05/11/03 LCK